701 question of sound and inspired leadership and the discipline which flows from such leadership.

626 Security in the Protectorate was a very much wider problem than in the Colony and there were more diverse forces at my disposal to ensure a reasonable degree of protection and to punish those who wilfully created disturbances. Prior to 1937 no-one had paid very much attention to the Protectorate, and His Majesty's Government certainly had not attempted to honour their obligations. I doubt if they were really fully aware of what those obligations were to the people of this great territory. Beyond ensuring, in so far as was possible, that the trade routes remained open so that the trade of the Colony was not impaired by the wild and woolly ruffians in the hills behind, very little was done, and what was done was generally by the old-fashioned method of placating unruly and tiresome individuals with rifles and ammunition and money.

626 631 After 1937 there was a profound change in policy and the emphasis was then on reducing the number of lethal weapons in private possession and building up the authority of the Treaty Chiefs by providing them with the means to maintain security in their own States. His Majesty's Government had come to a better understanding of their obligations and realised that the first essential to any form of progress must be security. The Rulers were encouraged, therefore, to form their own armed police forces, and they received assistance in arming, clothing and paying for these forces.

625 701 By the time I became Governor there had come into being in each State a body of men who were known as Tribal Guards and who were at the Ruler's disposal to maintain his authority and for use in any sudden security emergency. Starting as a completely untrained force they had gradually been brought up to a standard of efficiency and effectiveness which was a credit to the instructors who had been made available from the Government Guards. On ceremonial occasions they were very smart indeed, dressed in khaki shirts and khaki kilts with red cloth head-dresses, but in an emergency they left these trappings at home and there was nothing outwardly to distinguish

[714]

Aden

567 "What is the condition?" asked the Political Officer with considerable misgiving.

"You must agree to send troops here when I free them," answered the Sultan.

"What for?" asked the astonished Political Officer.

"To protect me, of course," said the Sultan.

"I am afraid I do not understand, your Highness," said the Political Officer much perplexed.

"I am surprised. Surely it's obvious? I feed and house and clothe my so-called slaves, and of course, their families. I give them presents on religious festivals and when they marry. I have not enough work for them to do and in consequence they have an easy life. Now, if I say to them that they are free and I don't propose to keep them any longer and that they must go away and earn their own living, I am afraid they won't be very pleased. They are simple people, you know, and prefer actual ease and comfort with only technical restraint to freedom and hard work, and as they are stronger than my army I must be certain of your help before I make them free," was the answer of the Sultan.

567 702 As usual with us a compromise was achieved and the slaves became the troops.

701 625 The backing for the Tribal Guards in the Western Protectorate comes from a body of men called the Government Guards, a fine lot who were originally raised and trained by Lord Belhaven and Stenton, when as Master of Belhaven he was a Political Officer working in the Protectorate. Indeed, it was his idea which brought them into being and the Protectorate should be extremely grateful to him for his happy thought and his hard work in the early formative months. They are under the general direction of the British Agent, who is the senior Political official responsible to the Governor for the Western half of the Protectorate, and are a Government force paid for from the annual subvention from Her Majesty's Government. Well armed and well trained with distinctive black head-dresses, they play many dangerous and difficult parts. Led by their British and Arab officers they are always ready to support the Tribal Guards when local difficulties

[714]

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

901
714 •
142

[SERGT. AT SERGEANT OF THE GOVERNMENT GUARDS, LEADER OF MY SIX PERSONAL GUARDS]

[facing p. 115]